



Women's  
International  
Peace Centre

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT







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International  
Peace Centre



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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## Acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission of Human and People's Rights
AU	African Union
AUMISS	African Union Mission in South Sudan
AUWGYD	African Union Women Gender and Youth Directorate
AWLN	African Women Leaders Network
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CIGPJ	Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice
CTRH	Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
NAP	National Action Plans
OSEWPS	Office of the Special Envoy of the African Union Chairperson on Women, Peace and Security
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RWB	Researchers Without Borders
WANEP	West African Network of Peacebuilders
WPS	Women Peace and Security



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# WELCOME

2022 has been a year of growth, of learning and adapting to the 'new normal'.

We had the opportunity to return to our previous ways of working with the lessons and tools we acquired from adapting to the impact of the COVID19 pandemic. This meant that we could now face and connect in-person with the women peace builders we work with. It also meant that we would also be faced with the real impact of the pandemic on their wellbeing and their organizing to advance the women, peace and security agenda.

Our approach has therefore adapted to our new realities. We have doubled down on our approach to holistic well-being. Our commitment to equipping women peace builders with the expertise, information and spaces to influence peace processes remains steadfast.

In this year's annual report, we share the highlights of our year and the wins we have registered in seeking to ensure that peace and security centres and benefits women in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda. You are welcome to read about these achievements in this report and can find more details on our website.

We are grateful to the Peace Centre staff, Board members and partners for your continued support to our work.

We look forward to continuing with you on our journey to create a world in which women live in peace and redefine peace.

Sincerely

**Elizabeth Lwanga**



# MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



**Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga**

Ms. Lwanga is the Chair of the Board of the Women's International Peace Centre . She is a Leadership Development Consultant and Innovations in Development Advisor with over thirty years of experience in development work with national governments, non-governmental organisations and the United Nations.



**Prof. Cheryl Hendricks**

Professor Hendricks is the Executive Director of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation. She holds a PhD in Government and International Relations from the University of South Carolina. She has extensive experience researching women, peace and security in Africa and has worked in the area of peace building, mediation and security sector reform.



**Ms. Luz Maria Martinez**

Ms. Martinez is the Project Director South East Asia Women's Watch (SEAWWatch) a South East Asia network of women established to monitor and revitalise the monitoring of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. She serves on the Women International Peace Centre Board as a representative for Asia region lo/Isis International-Manila



**Ms. Gertrude Bibi Annoh-Quashie**

Ms. Annoh-Quashie is the Director of Operations at the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF). She is a chartered certified accountant who is passionate about women's rights and the pursuit of dignity, equality, respect and justice for African women and girls.



**Ms. Magdalena Anna Kropiwnicka**

Ms. Kropiwnicka is a food systems and land policy expert advocating for greater empowerment and leadership of women and girls in development governance. She has nearly 20 years of professional experience including active roles at the United Nations and in the European Union multilateral negotiations as well as in managing programs, building effective partnerships with local organisations at both community and governmental level.



**Ms. Prabha Sankaranarayan**

Ms. Sankaranarayan is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mediators Beyond Borders International. She is a conflict transformation practitioner who has mediated, facilitated, and trained in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the USA. Her current Advisory & Board appointments include The Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, VISIONS Inc. (a DEI organization in USA) and Women's International Peace Centre.



## OUR VISION, MISSION AND APPROACH

The Women's International Peace Centre (formerly Isis-WICCE) is a feminist organisation with a mission to ignite women's leadership, amplify their voices and deepen their activism in re-creating peace. Founded in 1974, The Peace Centre works with partners in conflict and post-conflict contexts across Africa and Asia, using our home-grown WEAVE model to catalyse women's power for peace by integrating research, documentation, holistic wellbeing, skills and movement building as well as advocacy.



### Our Vision

Women living in peace and (re)creating peace



### Our Values

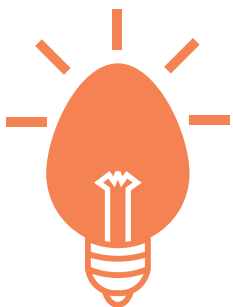
Boldness, Innovation, Consistency and Intentional Wellbeing

## How we Expect Change to Happen

We work with women affected by conflict to nurture their dignity and self-esteem (power within), enhance their personal agency (power to), harness their collective agency (power with), and develop their influence (power over) so as to advocate for and effect meaningful change while addressing women's issues, which would typically go unaddressed in conflict and post-conflict settings.



## How We Define Impact



### Illumination:

We research and document the critical yet often-neglected experiences of women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, generating important data and information to influence policies and practice. Our research and documentation is impactful if we can;

- Tell the story from a woman's point of view, ensure that women are not erased from history in post conflict countries and survivors are viewed as vital agents of change in humanitarian and reconstruction processes.
- Create safe spaces for women to share their stories and challenge the silence, stigma, and denial related to sexual violence in conflict.
- Use the stories to demand resource distribution in ways that advance women's rights and wellbeing.
- Mobilize and amplify women's political influence and demands for peace, freedom from violence, and gender-responsive post-conflict processes and realities.
- Add to the body of existing feminist knowledge on women, conflict and peace building.
- Successfully lobby key stakeholders to change norms, policies and practices that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women in conflict and post conflict settings.

## Healing

After conducting research we facilitate responses to the unique impact of sexual and gender-based violence and the trauma of violent conflict on women. Healing is impactful if;

- Women receive psychosocial support and have the necessary tools to support their personal and collective wellbeing before and during their participation in peace processes or peace building activities.
- Skills of women are strengthened to conduct self and group therapy, to provide support and to ensure safety and security of individuals, women's groups and networks.
- Partnerships with government and non-government actors, along with related advocacy, prompts prioritising of support and protection for women human rights defenders and women engaged in peace building and post-conflict governance.



## Synergy

We build the capacity of women as change agents in peace building and post-conflict recovery processes through leadership training, cross-cultural exchanges, documentation and 'giving back to the community' initiatives. Our leadership institute is impactful if;

- It documents and highlights the priority concerns and specific realities of women along with the situation of conflict in each country.
- Women are able to define informed responses to a specific concern and achieve the goals of their community peace building initiatives.
- Alumnae apply the increase in knowledge and skills to engage in advocacy and action for peace in their contexts.



## Radiation

We contribute to building a women's peace movement through campaigns and sustained support to the activism of women peace builders. Our initiatives are impactful if;

- Women's voices and agency are at the centre of calling and activating for change.
- We create the space for women to engage with key stakeholders and in political work while respecting their personal journeys.
- Women's groups and movements are supported to build trust, collaborate and exchange strategies for gender-responsive peace processes.





## Advocacy

We challenge norms, policies, practices and institutions that perpetuate violence and gender inequality through lobby and evidence-based advocacy  
Our advocacy is impactful if;

- There is a feminist voice (centering women, survivors' concerns, women's priorities and solutions) in decision-making processes on peace building and post-conflict recovery.
- Policies and their implementation reflect women's concerns, and are gender-responsive - include and benefit all women.





## WHERE WE WORK

The Peace Centre works with partners in conflict affected settings in Africa and Asia to ensure that women not only powerfully contribute to peacebuilding processes but also transform these spaces to be more gender inclusive and gender sensitive.

In 2022, our countries of focus were South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Nepal and Uganda which have all experienced varying degrees of conflict and have had far reaching impacts on their societies; disproportionately impacting on women and girls. In addition, as members of the Just Future Consortium we also engaged with partners in Afghanistan, Mali and Niger.

South Sudan has been grappling with cycles of ethnic and political conflict since its independence in 2011 and despite the presence of the Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the recurring conflicts continue to significantly affect the country's development of a stable and functioning state. Burundi since independence has experienced several violent conflicts including a civil war as a result of unresolved longstanding ethnic divisions and differences while Democratic Republic of Congo has struggled with decades of armed conflict and political instability. The presence of these numerous armed groups has contributed to a cycle of violence leading to displacement of people, loss of lives and a significant humanitarian crisis. Uganda on the other hand has endured the effects of regional conflicts hosting refugees from neighboring countries. Nepal, although not currently in armed conflict has dealt with the aftermath of a decade long civil war and has been focusing on post conflict recovery.





### Goal

To enhance gender equity, justice and inclusive political, social and economic development, by contributing to sustainable peace.



### Outcomes

Outcome 1: Increased participation of women in peace processes articulating and influencing gender responsive and sustainable peace.

Outcome 2: Transformed gender responsive peace processes in terms of prevention, mediation, dialogues, peace building, peace keeping and negotiation.

## Strategic Outputs

To support and work towards the achievement of the goal and outcome, the following key outputs or results will be achieved during this strategic time period.



**Enhanced technical expertise of women to participate in peace processes.**



**Information is available for women to influence decision-making in peace processes**



**Deliberate attempts to claim spaces for women to participate at all levels of peace processes – local, national and regional.**  
[Claim: pushing for implementation of existing policies and laws]



**Holistic Wellbeing of women in peace processes ensured.**



**The Peace Centre is a structured and continuously improving institution delivering its strategic results, while maintaining a healthy working environment.**



### 1. Enhanced technical expertise of women to participate in peace processes.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the associated National Action Plans (NAP) provide the basis and framework to support women's participation in conflict resolution and peace processes. In Burundi, DRC, South Sudan, Nepal and Uganda, despite the existence of this policy commitment, several women need specific technical knowledge and skills to meaningfully participate in peace building within their context.

The Peace Centre together with partners therefore focused on equipping women to advocate for peaceful elections, enabling cross-learning between women and civil society organisations to advance the WPS agenda, and trained women on context-relevant peace building approaches.

### Our Key Achievements



12 Women political leaders in Nepal were voted into power: Among the 30 women trained in 2021 on gender responsive budgeting, district budget planning analysis and oversight roles, to influence gender mainstreaming in the budget process, 12 of them took up leadership positions in 2022 as deputy mayors and vice chairpersons (7 deputy mayors and 5 vice chairpersons). These raised and advocated for gender budgeting during council debates. Through our partners of Tarangini Foundation, the Peace Centre also provided mentorship to the women political leaders to advocate for women's rights.

**12** Women political leaders were voted into power in Nepal



## South Sudan

Trained female members of parliament influenced incorporation of civil society's submissions into the legal and gender analysis of the Permanent Constitution Amendment Bill. In June and September 2022, 82 newly appointed female MPs were trained on skills of Rules of Procedures, Legislative analysis, advocacy and lobby. The trained MPs played an instrumental role in advocating and lobbying for support to push for the adoption of civil society's submissions to be incorporated in the bill. On passing of the bill last year, several recommendations from the submissions were incorporated

Target number of women trained	Actual number of women trained
60	82

6 trained young women in South Sudan (3) and Uganda (3) exercised their leadership by participating in the open parliamentary sessions on the revision of the Political Party Act in Juba to advocate for women's 35% representation quota and forming a caucus to support youth in politics in Uganda. The young women were able to make recommendations and suggestions on the Act through their MP constituency representatives during the sessions. In total, 41 young women in South Sudan (21) and Uganda (20) were trained.

Target number trained	Actual number trained
40	41



6 trained young women in South Sudan (3) and Uganda (3) exercised their leadership by participating in the open parliamentary sessions on the revision of the Political Party Act in Juba to advocate for women's 35% representation quota and forming a caucus to support youth in politics in Uganda. In total, 41 young women in South Sudan (21) and Uganda (20) were trained





## Uganda

Trained peace mediators influenced progress in informal peace building processes in Karamoja. They hosted mediation sessions targeting the youth, to discourage armed raids and encouraged cultural leaders to include women in promoting peace. 191 women leaders and male WPS champions from 7 sub-counties in Kotido and Moroto were trained as Peace Mediators to advocate for women’s participation in peace and security decision-making in Karamoja sub-region. They understood UNSCR 1325, Uganda’s WPS NAP, conflict analysis, peace building, advocacy and media engagement on WPS issues. Consequently, the peace mediators successfully identified and mediated conflicts related to gender based violence and land disputes within the communities. This played an important role in fostering peaceful coexistence among community members.

Target number of women	Actual number trained
150	191

## Afghanistan, Burundi, DRC, Mali, Niger, South Sudan

2 Learning exchanges in Burundi and Uganda were held. Civil society organisations (CSOs) learned good practices, shared different experiences in implementing the WPS agenda, exchanged lessons learnt and strategies for making progress despite limited civic space. They used the exchange to define advocacy plans to move the WPS agenda forward in Afghanistan, Burundi, DRC, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and at regional level. Here, regional actors also provided practical guidance to advance national level advocacy goals including Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and FEMWISE-Africa.



## Quote from Social Media



*"The training helped us to realize our role and we have taken centre [stage] in peace building. We shared knowledge and skills obtained about peace in churches and held dialogues at village level, in a bid to support the government in the disarmament program and promote peace. We gave hope to the people who have lost their dear ones / animals and they refrained from revenge. We realized the importance of leaving no one behind and engaged the cultural institution, the male and female elders helped us to convene with the boys to stimulate their critical thinking on cost and benefit of raids, killings and stealing. Women are now at the centre, and are collectively advocating for peace with a uniform voice."*



**Achok Veronica**





## 2. Information is available for women to influence decision-making in peace processes

In 2022, to ensure that women had the necessary information in real-time, to participate in and influence peace processes our approach included a focus on simplified information and communication materials, webinars or online dialogues, social media, policy briefs and more detailed publications. This information supported women in South Sudan to engage policymakers on women's priorities for the permanent constitution-making process and the establishment of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, whose foundation was set in the Revitalised Peace Agreement. In Uganda, to support women, in Karamoja and nationally, to engage leaders to implement the UNSCR 1325 NAP, it was summarised, simplified and shared in various forms to suit the target audience and drive constructive support for implementation. To build public and political support for women's roles in peace processes, webinars were hosted on various themes concerning multiple countries. Good practices and positive models for women's peace building initiatives in Burundi, DRC, South Sudan and Uganda were also documented and made available. By disseminating publications through various channels such as the Peace Centre's website, social media platforms and outdoor events like exhibitions, the reports served as valuable references for research studies, contributed to knowledge on WPS and enhanced understanding on the need for women to participate in peace processes.

### Our Key Achievements



#### Burundi, DRC and South Sudan

The work of women's rights organisations and other CSO actors seeking to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda with the benefit of constructive and equitable partnerships was boosted with practical tips informed by partners' experiences and recommendations. Through the 54th edition of Women's World magazine, CSO partners in Burundi, DRC and South Sudan reflected on the strategies used and lessons learned in the implementation of their collaborative WPS programme at national level and with regional or global partners. This is documented in the issue titled, *Better Together: Accelerating Impact through Partnerships for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*





## South Sudan

Diverse women's priorities and voices are reflected in the outcomes of the consultations for the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH), a transitional justice mechanism provided for in the Revitalised Peace Agreement. Following insufficiently inclusive public consultations for the establishment of the CTRH and the drafting of the bill, The Peace Centre in collaboration with Cordaid South Sudan, Search for Common Ground South Sudan, Initiative for Peace Communication and Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice (CIGPJ) held consultative meetings with groups of women leaders in Juba, Yei, Wau and Bor. These voices informed successful follow-up actions for lobbying and advocacy efforts. The voices are reflected in the policy brief titled, *Women's Perspectives on the Establishment of the CTRH in South Sudan*.

Trained young women, women human rights defenders and other CSOs benefitted from the information brief titled, *Women's participation in the permanent constitution-making process of South Sudan*, which was launched in 2022, to provide information to support ongoing advocacy for women's stronger inclusion in on-going processes around the permanent constitution's formulation. This was drafted with CIGPJ.

## Uganda

Increased awareness, expressed commitment and action in relation to Uganda's UNSCR 1325 NAP in Karamoja sub-region by translating it into Ngakarimojong, distributing *simplified copies* (1,810), and *posters* (3,000) to district political leaders, technical planning teams, women leaders, media practitioners and national level actors charged with ensuring stronger WPS implementation and support for women's peacebuilding roles. 12 radio talk shows and a social media campaign #UGNAPIII also ensured constant visibility of the calls to action regarding women's place in peace building and NAP progress.

Information to support replication of the successful Women Situation Room Uganda experience in other contexts was made available through a manual (WSR Uganda Programme, Tools and Manual), a video documentary (Women Nurturing a Culture of Peace and Tolerance in Elections in Uganda) and a strategy titled The WSR Uganda Post Elections Strategic Plan 2022-2026.











## Online Dialogues

Webinars hosted by The Peace Centre were used to consult diverse women, gather information to feed into ongoing advocacy, and reflect further on specific issues and the required solutions. These focused on the following themes;

- Strengthening the role of CSOs on the African Union Continental Results Framework for reporting and monitoring on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa
- Developing a research agenda for monitoring the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa from a feminist and civil society perspective.
- Transforming Impunity into Accountability: The role of the Commission on Truth, Healing and Reconciliation in ending conflict-related violence in South Sudan.
- Women’s Global Political Representation: Are there Alternatives?
- The Role of young women refugees in decision-making and peace processes.
- Uganda's Draft Peace Building Policy

## Social Media

In 2022, our messages reached a growing audience and we were able to influence the agenda

**f** **433,444** Users  
**5,663** Likes  
 726.4% increase in Users, & 29.7% more Likes

**1181** New Followers  
**141,540** Mentions  
**505,800** Impressions



**8854** Website Visitors

## Quote from Social Media



Nunu Alison

It was a timely convening with great insights on the Constitutional making process.

Like Reply Hide 15w





### **3. Deliberate attempts to claim spaces for women to participate at all levels of peace processes – local, national and regional.**

The Peace Centre's efforts to claim spaces for women are aimed at enabling their increased access to and influence of policy platforms and policy makers at national, regional and global levels including national governments, the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the United Nations. This is through providing targeted technical and practical support to link local and national actors to regional policymakers and accelerate the achievement of their national advocacy goals in relation to the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

#### **Our Key Achievements**

##### **Burundi, DRC and South Sudan: Regional and Global**

The voices and WPS concerns of women working with and consulted by national CSO representatives (2 women, 1 man) in Burundi, DRC and South Sudan were amplified on panels in policy influencing spaces at regional and global levels including GIMAC, UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UN Security Council's Open Debate on WPS. This also included young and displaced women (8 young refugee women) who were also able to contribute recommendations to joint outcome documents targeting the RECS and the AU. The young refugee woman from DRC and the Burundi CSO partner highlighted priority WPS issues and recommendations.

CSO partners were also able to address regional policymakers and other practitioners to drum up support for WPS agenda implementation with 2 (DRC and South Sudan) of 5 national CSO representatives speaking on the peace and security panel during the 4th GIMAC Strategic Engagement feeding into the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and RECs. Similarly, women peace builders from Burundi, DRC and South Sudan were convened on the margins of CSW66 where they proposed strategies to advance the WPS agenda in the context of climate change.



6 CSO partners (5 women, 1 man) successfully influenced the Office of the Special Envoy of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security (OSEWPS) to formally include civil society actors in the AU's plans to strengthen WPS monitoring and reporting by committing to include CSOs' parallel reports in tracking of WPS implementation progress and engagement with Member States. This followed a closed lobby meeting with the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (OSEWPS) and African Union Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (AUWGYD) where African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Coordinator and Head of AUWGYD Youth Division committed to support the participation of young women in WPS discussions at UN Level after which specific partners' information was added to a contact list as an initial step.

African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Coordinator and Head of African Union Women Gender and Youth Directorate (AUWGYD) Youth Division committed to support the participation of young women in WPS discussions at UN Level after which specific partners' information was added to a contact list as an initial step.



Online webinars focused on WPS monitoring processes equipped women and national CSOs with the practical information and concrete steps to constructively engage in the regional WPS monitoring processes. An initial reflection session discussing the role of CSOs in reporting on the African Union Continental Results Framework was conducted with CSO representatives and the AU OSEWPS and IGAD. A follow-up technical working group included ACCORD, AU OSEWPS, IGAD, Researchers Without Borders (RWB) and West African Network of Peacebuilders (WANEP), to define the specific information/data needed by AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to strengthen monitoring and accountability on WPS.



The Peace Centre influenced the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the UN through the newly formed AU Focal Points Group Initiative to facilitate regular briefings by African women peace builders or women's rights actors to the UN Security Council and AU Permanent Mission Representatives. This followed a statement made during the launch of the initiative.

## Burundi

Influenced an evaluation of WPS progress in Burundi by developing an evaluation brief on 30 years progress in implementing Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Burundi including a focus on WPS elements. This was presented to the Minister on Gender during an advocacy meeting

## DRC

The African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) President committed to encourage the DRC authorities to take action regarding the human rights situation following a statement by a CSO partner, highlighting issues of WPS, transitional justice and the rights of human rights defenders. This resulted from advocacy meetings co-hosted by The Peace Centre with the President of the ACHPR and Special Rapporteur of the African Union on the Situation of human rights defenders in Africa and the Executive Director of the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies and organizer of the NGO forum. The statement included several recommendations that were presented to the president. As a result, some of the recommendations were implemented, leading to;

Adoption of the law on fundamental principles related to the protection and reparation of victims of conflict-related sexual violence and victims of crimes against peace and security of humanity.

Adoption of the law relative to the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders in DRC

Adoption of the Transitional justice policy



## SOUTH SUDAN

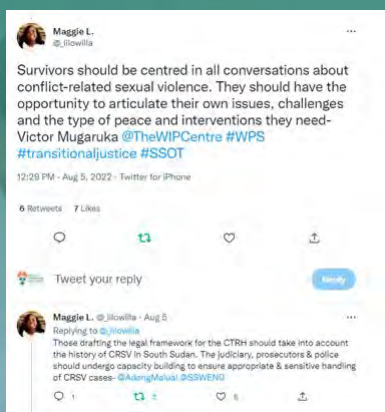
Lobby for support to South Sudan women's advocacy on the 35% quota which targeted the AU Mission in South Sudan (AUMISS) and FEMWISE-Africa was fruitful. It resulted in a partnership, also including ACCORD, gathering women peacebuilders from the 10 states to reflect on women's priorities regarding implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS), a roadmap for strengthening women's participation and set up of a FEMWISE South Sudan chapter as a mechanism to support women's participation in decision-making on peace and security at local and national levels.

Seizing the opportunity of the annual AU WPS Forum that gathers member states, RECs and AUC representatives to reflect on the results of the annual WPS report developed by the OSEWPS, WIPC as a member of the AU Gender, Peace and Security Programme Civil Society Working Group on WPS and the AU Network of Centres of Excellence on WPS secured a speaking opportunity for a CSO partner from South Sudan and facilitated the participation of a partner from DRC (2 young women). The South Sudan CSO network representative shared strategies used by women to influence the outcomes of the peace agreement while maintaining a local constituency. This was valuable for keeping the case of WPS in South Sudan on the regional agenda.

## Uganda

Influenced the review of the draft Uganda National Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Policy; a critical national framework that guides peace interventions which has since been shared with key policy makers to accelerate its passing and implementation. From the draft document of 2015, the Peace Centre facilitated multiple engagements with stakeholders like Ministry of Internal Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister and civil society to push for the review of the peace policy. Two technical reviews were carried out and the final document was presented to the Office of the Prime Minister.

## Quote from Social Media





## 4. Holistic Wellbeing of women in peace processes ensured.

The physical and psychological welfare of the women the Peace Centre serves as well as the staff members is critical to advancing the organisation’s mission and ensuring women’s meaningful participation in peace processes. Our constituents live in conflict and post-conflict settings, often have undergone traumatic experiences and face personal attacks for the norm-challenging work they do. In 2022, we also prioritised strategies to ensure the holistic wellbeing of staff members

### Our Key Achievements

Mainstreaming wellness across our work. 14 training workshops and 2 learning exchanges integrated wellness practices and the distribution of practical wellness tools and information. Across all activities, staff focused on ensuring facilitation style and decision-making was compatible with wellness.



Providing counselling sessions for our constituents (63), particularly female survivors of gender-based violence. This support was provided over the phone and in person for those in Uganda.

Various strategies boosted staff wellbeing including a one-time payment to 34 staff to address financial stress from the cost-of-living crisis; staff birthday celebrations to boost morale and a positive work environment; health information sessions which resulted in 5 staff taking COVID19 vaccination; happy hour sessions (4) for relaxation and relationship-building.



### Quote from Social Media



*"By prioritizing the well-being of its partners, the Peace Centre aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters healing, growth, and resilience. This includes centering sessions, energizers, excursions, sessions on wellness, art work personal safety and security, and cultural nights."*



**Latifah Namutebi**



## 5. The Peace Centre is a structured and continuously improving institution delivering its strategic results, while maintaining a healthy working environment.

In 2022, we focused on building a strong institution working well internally and with partners to ensure growth, increased and improving response to the demands of the region aiming at an efficient accountability system; improved institutional governance and skilled motivated staff. This included efforts to ensure continued freedom to operate by meeting the legal compliance requirements in Burundi, DRC, South Sudan and Uganda where we primarily work.

### Our Key Achievements

#### Governance

The board functions optimally, providing policy and strategic direction to the secretariat. In 2022 the board held 3 meetings, two online and one physical meeting in Kampala, Uganda. During the physical meeting staff interacted with the board and jointly reflected on the Peace Centre's strategic direction for 2024 to 2028.



Through monthly meetings, the management team has guided the operations of the organisation .

The Peace Centre continued to review and draft policies to support its operations. These include policies on sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse; anti-corruption and anti-bribery; information security among others.

The increased use of online solutions has supported internal functioning. For instance, financial reporting has greatly improved through timely generation of monthly analysis and donor reports.

#### Human Resource Management

- Skilled and competent staff were recruited for all the positions in the recommended organisational structure. One communications assistant was recruited in 2022.
- Appraisal of individual staff performance was conducted bi-annually.
- Capacity development initiatives such as Monitoring and Evaluation training have built staff ability to conduct their work.
- Staff wellness and productivity reported as high following prioritizing of staff leave and medical insurance.





## OUR INCOMES AND EXPENDITURE

### *Our opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements of Women's International Peace Center ("the Organisation") for the year ended 31 December 2022 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

### *What we have audited*

The Organisation's financial statements comprise:

- statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2022;
- statement of fund balance as at 31 December 2022;
- statement of changes in accumulated fund for the year then ended;
- statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Basis for opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Independence*

We are independent of the Organisation in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants ("the IESBA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

### *Emphasis of Matter - Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution and use*

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared to assist the Organisation in complying with its reporting requirements. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our report is intended solely for the Organisation and should not be distributed to or used by other parties other than the Organisation. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



### ***Other information***

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the annual report but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the financial statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

### ***Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement leader on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA Clive Mayombwe - P0349.





## Statement of income and expenditure

	Notes	2022 USD	2021 USD
Grant income	3	1,245,462	2,823,637
Other income	4	55,752	16,417
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,301,214</b>	<b>2,840,054</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Enhanced technical expertise of women to participate in peace processes	5.1	472,778	406,518
Information is available for women to influence decision making in peace processes	5.2	172,632	94,889
Deliberate attempts to claim spaces for women to participate at all levels of peace processes	5.3	360,748	1,030,887
Holistic wellbeing of women in peace processes ensured	5.4	23,979	18,518
The Peace Center structured and continuously improving and delivering on strategic results	5.5	998,732	1,059,675
Refund to DGF	5.6	-	83,231
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>2,028,869</b>	<b>2,693,718</b>
<b>(Deficit)/ surplus for the year</b>		<b>(727,655)</b>	<b>146,336</b>



## Statement of fund balance

	Notes	2022 USD	2021 USD
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property and equipment	7	104,081	136,955
<b>Current assets</b>			
Receivables	6	47,040	32,623
Cash in hand and at bank	8	197,887	965,825
Total current assets		244,927	998,448
Total Assets		349,008	1,135,403
<b>Funds and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Funds</b>			
Capital fund		104,081	136,955
Sustainability fund		159,699	887,354
Accumulated fund		263,780	1,024,309
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables		85,228	111,094
Total funds and liabilities		349,008	1,135,403



### Statement of changes in accumulated fund

	Capital fund USD	Sustainability fund USD	Total USD
Year ended 31 December 2021			
At start of year	156,518	672,969	829,487
Surplus for the year	-	146,336	146,336
Additions (note 7)	97,334	-	97,334
Disposal	(68,049)	68,049	-
Depreciation charge (note 7)	(48,848)	-	(48,848)
At end of year	136,955	887,354	1,024,309
Year ended 31 December 2022			
At start of year	136,955	887,354	1,024,309
Deficit for the year	-	(727,655)	(727,655)
Additions (note 7)	2,090	-	2,090
Disposal	-	-	-
Depreciation charge (note 7)	(34,964)	-	(34,964)
At end of year	104,081	159,699	263,780

### Statement of cash flows

	Notes	2022 USD	2021 USD
Operating activities			
(Deficit) / surplus for the year		(727,655)	146,336
Purchase of property and equipment	7	2,090	97,334
Gain on disposal of property		(2,678)	(5,946)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		<b>(728,243)</b>	<b>237,724</b>
Working capital changes:			
Receivables		(14,417)	84,977
Payables		(25,866)	(102,620)
<b>Net cash (used in)/ generated from operating activities</b>		<b>(768,526)</b>	<b>220,081</b>
Investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment	7	(2,090)	(97,334)
Proceeds from disposal of property		2,678	73,995
<b>Net cash generated from/ (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>588</b>	<b>(23,339)</b>
Movement in cash at bank and In hand			
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		(767,938)	196,742
Cash at bank and in hand at start of year		965,825	769,083
Cash at bank and in hand at end of year	8	197,887	965,825



## CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNT

### Challenges

- The economic crisis globally manifested in high inflation, fluctuating fuel and commodity prices, and food insecurity had an impact on project budgets and the expectations of constituents faced with pressing practical needs. The long-term impact of the COVID19 pandemic had a similar effect.
- Project-based funding limited the extent to which previously supported partners or constituents would be tracked or engaged in ongoing actions.
- Peace and security issues being perceived as sensitive political matters had an impact on how or whether specific activities would be conducted. Care has to be taken to avoid misunderstanding or backlash.
- In Uganda, the escalation of armed insecurity in Karamoja region delayed project take off and timely monitoring of implementation.
- Access to regional spaces remained a challenge for displaced women who are not able to leave the country.
- Climate Change related events like the severe flooding across South Sudan displaced thousands of people leaving them without shelter and food.
- The depletion of the already limited natural resources such as water and land in refugee settlements also intensified competition and conflicts over the resources among host and refugee communities, exacerbating existing tensions



### Lessons Learnt

- It is important to create safe spaces for intergenerational learning. This helps women to learn, unlearn and challenge themselves to get out of their comfort zones, exposes them to new ideas that enhance their knowledge, builds their social networks and also inspires other women to take up leadership positions.
- Male involvement is critical in attitude change and proactiveness around peacebuilding and development work.
- Partnerships with civil society organisations as well as government ministries or agencies eased implementation of activities and add value to the quality and impact of interventions.
- Increased use of online platforms needs to be balanced with traditional media including local radio and diverse languages, to ensure broader reach and engagement
- The value of membership within networks and working in partnership with others who have a similar mission remains paramount.



## THANK YOU

The year 2022 was another reminder of what we have to gain by continuing to work in solidarity. Despite the inevitable challenges of working to advance the women, peace and security agenda, we have been able to record notable wins. For this, I thank the women we work with, all our partners and the supporters who make the work of Women's International Peace Centre possible.

Our hope was renewed by the increased number of diverse women organising and taking charge of peace building processes, especially at the grassroots level. We remain committed to join efforts to close the gap between women's grassroots initiatives for peace and decision-making spaces.

Moving forward, the Peace Centre will continue to support women peace builders and organisations to shape and lead peace initiatives at regional level, in their countries and in communities within Burundi, DRC, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda.

Sincerely,

***Helen Kezie-Nwoha***  
***Executive Director***  
***Women's International Peace Centre***



## Our Development Partners





Women's  
International  
Peace Centre